

CLAIMS

Claim 1: A composition comprising viable sporulated oocysts of at least one species of protozoa known to cause coccidiosis, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient, and at least one surfactant capable of preventing or reducing the aggregation of sporulated oocysts, wherein the composition is sterile substantially free of bacterial contamination.

Claim 2: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa are of the genus *Eimeria*.

Claim 3: (original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said protozoa are selected from the group consisting of *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria brunette*, *Eimeria praecox*, and combinations thereof.

Claim 4: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said protozoa comprise a plurality of species of protozoa.

Claim 5: (original) The composition of claim 4 wherein said plurality of species comprise *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, and *Eimeria tenella*.

Claim 6: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7: (original) The composition of claim 6 wherein said surfactant is a non-ionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of Tween 20, Tween 80, Triton X-100, Triton X-200, Tergitol 15-S-9, Tergitol 15-S-12, and combinations thereof.

Claim 8: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 10.0 mg/ml.

Claim 9: (original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.05 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

Claim 10: (original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration of from about 0.1 mg/ml to about 2.0 mg/ml.

Claim 11: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is at an interface.

Claim 12: (original) The composition of claim 11 wherein said interface is selected from the group consisting of a composition-air interface, a composition-container interface, or any combination thereof.

Claim 13: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said aggregation is on a container cap or stopper.

Claim 14: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises one or more dosage unit.

Claim 15: (original) The composition of claim 14 wherein each dosage unit comprises not more than about 10x the minimum immunizing dose of said oocysts.

Claim 16: (cancelled)

Claim 17: (amended) The composition of claim 16 [[1]] wherein said bacterial contamination is removed by tangential flow filtration.

Claim 18: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein bacterial contaminants have been removed from said composition at one or more step(s) of production.

Claim 19: (original) The composition of claim 18 wherein said contaminants are removed by tangential flow filtration.

Claim 20: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises:

Not more than about 0.8% by weight of alkali metal dichromate;  
Not more than about 0.75% chloramine by weight;  
Not more than about 10.0 ppm hypochlorite ion; and  
Not more than about 1000 mg/l hydrogen peroxide

Claim 21: (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diluent comprises water.

Claim 22: (amended) The composition of claim 21 wherein the ~~aqueous~~ diluent further comprises 0.5x phosphate buffered saline.

Claim 23: (original) The composition of claim 22 further comprising gentamicin.

Claim 24: (original) The composition of claim 23 wherein said gentamicin is present in an amount of about 30 $\mu$ g/ml

Claims 25 - 27 (cancelled)